(c) if so, whether the inquiry has been completed and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As informed by Air India, on 8th January, 2003 their flights AI-102, AI-122 and AI-111 were stranded at Heathrow airport, London due to bad weather conditions and resultant severe congestion at Heathrow airport, London and also due to cabin crew duty time limitations. Though the exact quantam of loss is difficult to quantify, the estimated additional expenditure may be in the range of Rs. 1.5 crores to Rs. 1.75 crores.

(c) A Committee has been constituted to enquire into the reasons resulting in multiple delays and to suggest remedial action so as to prevent recurrence of such incidents. The Committee has not yet submitted its report.

Guidelines on ground handling at International Airports

2650. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether fresh guidelines have been issued for ground handling at the four major international airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether private parties who had bid for the same earlier been debarred; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) On account of security considerations and in order to streamline the policy on ground handling services so as to achieve world class standards and to minimize the number of agencies performing ground handling operations at airports, the Government has taken a decision to suitably revise the Airports Authority of India (General Management, Entry for Ground Handling Services) Regulation, 2000 and to provide

a system by 1st July, 2003, wherein only Air India Limited, Indian Airlines Limited and Airports Authority of India will form separate companies, having a minimum of 51 per cent share holding either directly or thorugh their subsidiaries in the joint venture with an international operator or foreign airlines, subject to security clearance from the Government. Such joint venture company shall induct state-of-the art technology, equipment of world-class standards. No 'self-handling' by any of the airlines or their subsidiaries or agencies will be allowed. Pending formation of separate companies, Air India and Indian Airlines will directly provide ground handling services beyond 30 June 2003.

Completion of Bangalore and Hyderabad International Airports

2651. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that apprehensions have been expressed about Bangalore and Hyderabad International Airports getting delayed as has been expressed in the news-item of Economic Times of 8th November, 2002 under the caption 'Bangalore and Hyderabad International Airports seen unviable';

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to remove all snags in the completion of these Airport projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The key issues raised in the Economic Times newspaper article dated 8th November 2002, *inter alia,* relate to the commercial viability of the airport projects at Bangalore and Hyderabad; the State support; the issue of Government concessions etc. The promoters of these Greenfield airports consider the projects to the unviable without appropriate State Support.